

NAPIER

(From our own correspondent.)

June 23.

For some time past the local Hibernians have under consideration the question of making their fortnightly meetings more attractive, and with that end in view have instituted a series of social evenings, the first of which took place on June 8, under the auspices of St. John's branch. After the ordinary business of the lodge had been disposed of, music, games, etc. were indulged in. Songs were contributed by Messrs O'Connor, Madigan, Preston, Kenny, P. Barry, P. J. Henley, F. Mahoney, Willis, Tyne, and Smith. Messrs Murnane and J. Lyman danced an Irish jig, and Messrs. Shanahan (2) gave selections on the bagpipes. Mr. Fox, who played the accompaniments efficiently, also took part in an instrumental trio with Messrs. Hutchinson and Mahoney. Brief speeches were made by Very Rev. Dean Birnfield, Rev. Father Goggan, and Messrs Higgins, P. J. Barry, Murnane, Durney, and J. P. Kenny. These gatherings should popularise the Society.

On June 16, being the occasion of Rev. Father Goggan's anniversary, his parishioners took the opportunity of tendering him a complimentary social, which was held in St. Patrick's Hall. During the evening little Miss Preston presented Father Goggan, on behalf of the parishioners, with a purse of sovereigns as a slight token of appreciation of his work in connection with the Catholic Young Men's Club, St. Vincent de Paul Society, and other parish organisations. Mr. W. J. McGrath read an address expressive of the regard in which Father Goggan is held by his parishioners, to which the rev. gentleman suitably replied. An enjoyable programme of music, recitations, and dances was gone through.

The committee of the Catholic Young Men's Club are using every endeavor to make the Club attractive. The debates have been entered into with enthusiasm. A mock parliament is now in session and has proved very interesting. On June 21 a mock banquet took place, 10 members sitting down to well-laden tables, presided over by Rev. Father Goggan. The object in view is to accustom members to the various forms in which such functions are conducted. The toast list was interspersed with music and recitations. Messrs. Edwards, B. Weaver, Broad, Preston, and O'Connor contributed songs, Messrs. Hanlon, Price, and H. Sinden recitations, whilst Messrs. Hyde and Cagney presided at the piano. Herr Lehmann, conductor of St. Patrick's choir, has consented, at the request of Father Goggan, to organise the musical talent of the Catholic Club, for which purpose Monday evenings have been set apart.

The local Harmonic Society gave its second concert on June 22 in the Gaiety Theatre to a crowded audience. In the second part of the programme Mr. D. Twobill, a member of St. Patrick's choir, pleased the audience greatly with his rendering of the pretty song, 'Down the vale.' The local musical critic states he has a sweet tenor voice of good quality and sings with considerable expression. He was encored and replied with Leon's 'Dawn of life.'

Southland News Notes

The Invercargill winter show was responsible for an influx of people to the town last week, many of whom, being far afield, make the trip their annual outing.

Mr. Joseph Devery, of Strathmore, Otautau, has taken over Mrs. Gallagher's Shamrock Hotel, Fairfax. Doubtless, Mr. Devery will prove a capable host and an acquisition to Fairfax in many a way.

The Edendale settlers tendered a social as a greeting of welcome to the new arrivals in that district—the successful selectors of Edendale estate sections. A large gathering assembled, about 600, and the pleasing function terminated with a dance. The Wyndham Band turned out in full muster. Mr. Kintross, the well known bard, composed an appropriate ode.

The bazaar to be held at the Bluff in aid of the local convent fund promises to be a huge success. The ladies at the Port are determined to eclipse all former efforts, and willing helpers from Invercargill are numerous.

The new church at Balfour is receiving its finishing touches, and the contractor (Mr. T. Carnaby, Gore) is to be complimented on the workmanship.

Our readers in Otago will learn with pleasure that Messrs. A. and T. Inglis, the well known drapers, etc. of Dunedin, will hold their fifteenth annual colossal sale shortly. It will commence on August 1, and during its continuance the whole of the firm's magnificent stock, amounting to upwards of £60,000, will be disposed of at large reductions.

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